

TOWN OF TRURO
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY JULY 21, 2004

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their regular weekly session on Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Truro Town Hall, 24 Town Hall Road, Truro. In attendance were: Chairman Alfred Gaechter, Vice-Chairman Christopher R. Lucy, Clerk Gary Palmer, Lloyd F. Rose, Paul J. Asher-Best, Acting Town Administrator John J. Sanguinet, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Chief Thomas, Catherine Costa, Kaimi Lum of the Banner and Patrick O'Neill of the Cape Codder.

Mr. Gaechter convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Beach Fire Policy for remainder of 2004 season: Mr. Sanguinet had contacted other towns to see how they regulate beach fires. Additionally, Chief Thomas had provided a letter to the Board giving his opinion, and the Chair had received an e-mail from the Beach Commission Chair. In her e-mail Ms. Averbach said the problem with beach fires was an ongoing one and has never been adequately addressed. The Beach Commission feels that fires should not be eliminated, but should be regulated. She will be returning to Truro the first weekend in August and the Beach Commission has planned a meeting for the following week. She asked that the BOS meet with them jointly after that meeting to work together to come up with a solid plan to protect visitors at our beaches.

Chief Thomas reminded the Board that they had already agreed to study this issue after the season is over and make recommendations for next year. He recommended that the BOS suspend the issuance of beach fire permits for the rest of the summer. Mr. Palmer suggested that since there is nothing in the town bylaws about beach fires, it must be covered in the beach regulations and he thought the BOS should ask Town Counsel for his comment. Mr. Gaechter said that if a bylaw change is needed, it could wait until the spring town meeting. Chief Thomas said that the former Beach Supervisors concerns were the fear that someone would step on a fire and get hurt and the cleanliness of the beach. He noted that beach goers in the daytime are charged, but the fires at night that mess up the beach are free.

Mr. Asher-Best suggested that the BOS work out a similar arrangement with the NPS that Wellfleet has with regard to monitoring beach fires. Mr. Gaechter agreed, adding that the NPS rangers go over the town's portion of the beaches to get to their portions. Their regulations call for all fires to be put out, but the debris does not have to be removed. He said the NPS was willing to sit down with the BOS and talk about this. The appointment of NPS rangers as Special Police Officers was discussed.

The consensus of the Board was to continue to issue beach fire permits, and proceed as already agreed by compiling statistics to study after the season and meeting jointly with the Beach Commission and all other appropriate people.

Mr. Rose said he had received a complaint of rusted bits of wire at the beach access at Ballston Beach from an old fence. Mr. Rose felt this was rather treacherous for beach goers and it was agreed that the Beach Supervisor would see that it was removed.

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At 6:42 p.m., with no further business, the Board went into recess until the meeting with the TNA began at 7:00 p.m.

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

Christopher R. Lucy, Vice Chairman

Gary Palmer, Clerk

Lloyd F. Rose

Paul J. Asher-Best
Board of Selectmen
Town of Truro
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